

dear friend and colleague, the Honorable John Lewis of Georgia. John had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he was undergoing treatment. Yet it didn't affect his kindness, his warm smile, or the gentle touch of his hand. John greeted me and we chatted. It was memorable because it was so natural, normal, and it turned out to also be good-bye.

For nearly twenty years I have served in the Congress with John Lewis, a civil rights champion and legend. His personal journey extended from sharecropper fields in Alabama to civil rights leader, Member of Congress to national treasure. John's voice had the moral authority of a man who had been tested by injustice and tormented by the defenders of injustice. John marched on the frontline of America's struggle for civil rights, voting rights, equal rights and he still had the profound goodness to listen to adversaries, seek goodness in all people, and forgive those who hurt him. John Lewis marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on behalf of Black Americans who were treated as second class citizens by Jim Crow laws, but his lifetime of service and sacrifice, his lifetime of love, was for all mankind. John was a powerful force for good, for righteousness, and for justice.

There are many books written about John's civil rights legacy and many more will be written. His life should be a lesson to all of us and especially to future generations of Americans who will continue to work to overcome inequality as our country strives to be a more perfect union. The courage, commitment and compassion of John's life is well documented and rightly honored. There was another John Lewis that I will remember and cherish.

On numerous occasions over the years John and I had the opportunity to sit on the House floor during votes and just chat. We chatted about everyday matters. John loved gardening. He talked with great expertise about flowers. It was a special joy in his life that I loved hearing him talk about. And sometimes a conversation on flowers would lead to one on climate change.

Once, we discussed another matter of seeming significance to John—fishing. He told me he liked to go fishing but obligations and official commitments made finding the time difficult. I invited him to visit me in Minnesota during the winter and told him I would share a special experience with him—ice fishing. Well, John smiled and laughed and very graciously informed me that such a thing made no sense to him and he would pass on the invitation.

John Lewis lived by the “Golden Rule”—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. He worked so hard to live by that rule that he made it look easy for those of us who are not as strong, disciplined, or courageous. I know John had his struggles, but he was a shining example for all who knew him and my life is richer, more full because of his generosity, kindness, and determination.

The passing of Rep. John Lewis is a sad and painful loss for his family, friends, and his congressional staff who loved him very much. It is also a difficult loss for his Georgia constituents, his congressional colleagues, and our entire nation. May God bless the soul of John Lewis and all who loved him. I am eternally grateful to have known John and called him my friend and colleague.

# REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ROBERT J. SCHWANZL

## HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2020*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise today to remember the life of Robert Schwanzl who had a distinguished career and was an outstanding Ohioan. He dedicated his adult life to protecting and serving his community and nation.

Bob was born and raised in the Toledo area. He attended Central Catholic High School, where he decided to join the Army after graduation. He started as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, working in intelligence during the Korean War. Upon returning to Toledo, he served at the Toledo Fire Department for 40 years before retiring in 1998.

Working at the fire department was a source of pride for Bob, saying “it's not work if you love what you do”. He worked his way to Fire Chief in 1994, where he proudly took on major responsibilities for his community. He oversaw the first female firefighters complete their training and supported the creation of the Toledo Fire Department's water rescue unit. After his graduation from Owens Tech with a degree in their inaugural Fire Science class, he worked as a fire science instructor at Owens for fifteen years.

Above all his love for his family exceeded all other passions. He and his wife Carolyn spent 53 years together and had four children together and later sixteen grandchildren. Late in his career and through retirement, Bob became highly involved with the Toledo Firefighters Museum, and served as its President since 1993. His family and extended family enjoyed trips to the Museum, listening to Bob explain the exhibits with enthusiasm and pride. This was especially true when he and the other volunteers were able to locate a new artifact from other museums or private owners. Bob also became deeply involved in his church, St. Joe's of Maumee. He was a frequent lector and usher and an active member of the Knights of Columbus, serving as Grand Knight in 2016.

He also enjoyed traveling, whether it was to visit his children and grandchildren or to visit Ireland, where at 85 years old he kissed the Blarney Stone, or Rome, where Bob was able to see the Pope for a second time in his life.

Bob will be remembered for his love and commitment to his nation community, family, friends, and colleagues. He was a man of integrity and an inspiration to countless people throughout his life, demonstrating humility and kindness always. Whether heroically commanding a scene, teaching a class or telling a story, Bob had a commanding voice that cannot be forgotten. He will be remembered admirably by our community. Chief Schwanzl assumed the awesome responsibility of leading one of the largest Fire Divisions in Ohio and ably served for four decades. His dutiful works for the city of Toledo built a finer city and place him in the ranks of citizens who become a father for all of Toledo. May the angels raise him to a place of peace and comfort which he has richly earned.

# LARAIN LOCKHART BORMAN

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laraine Lockhart Borman for receiving the Arvada Chamber's Image Award.

For 33 years, Laraine, as the director of outreach for the Mother's Milk Bank, has been giving back to moms, dads, babies and educating families about the benefits of breast milk. Her tireless efforts to spread the word to local birthing centers, health clinics, midwiferies, pediatrics offices, hospitals and public health departments have helped build a community of support around and for the Milk Bank in Arvada and Denver, and around Colorado and the country.

Laraine is one of the founding members of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America and actively sits on their board, helping to advance the cause nationally and internationally. She is instrumental in shaping the lives of many children, their children, and now their children's children. She does all of this because it's her biggest passion, her life's work and her purpose.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Laraine Lockhart Borman for this well-deserved award and appreciate her contribution to our community.

# FORMER REP. CHET EDWARDS REMEMBERS THE LATE REP. JOHN LEWIS

## HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2020*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on July 21, our former colleague, Chet Edwards, who represented Texas's Eleventh District from 1991 to 2010, wrote an op-ed in the Waco Tribune to share his remembrances of our friend Rep. John Lewis, who today will depart the Capitol for the last time before returning home to Atlanta for his funeral and burial. I am privileged to share Mr. Edwards's moving article about his friendship with Rep. Lewis and include it in the RECORD.

[From the Waco Tribune July 1, 2020]

HOW WE CAN HONOR JOHN LEWIS

(By Chet Edwards)

In his Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln spoke eloquently of his humility in the wake of great service and sacrifice for our nation when he said: “In a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract . . .”

Today, as I think about the passing of Congressman John Lewis, I find it difficult to conjure the words to adequately hallow his lifetime of service, sacrifice and courage.

Our founding fathers embedded in the first sentence of the Constitution the ideal of making ours “a more perfect union.” In doing so, they sent a message to every one of us in each generation that true patriotism is about making ours “a more perfect union.”